



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information in Blue Text

Event Name	21-0018 - Tropical Storm Nicholas
Date	September 14, 2021
Time	0900
Operational Period	September 13, 2021 – September 14, 2021
Report Number	3

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	2, 3 & 6
DDCs Active	15, 16, 17, 20, 21

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:

Tropical Storm (TS) Nicholas briefly reached hurricane strength at 2200 before making landfall on the Matagorda Peninsula at 1230; the National Weather Service downgraded it to a Tropical Storm at 0400. TS Nicholas could cause life-threatening flash floods across the deep south during the next couple of days. As of 4:00 AM CDT Tue Sep 14 the center of Nicholas was located near 29.3N, 95.6W with movement NNE at 9 mph. The minimum central pressure was 994 mb with maximum sustained winds of about 70 mph.



On September 13, The Governor issued a state disaster declaration in response to Tropical Storm Nicholas for 17 counties. Counties included in the state disaster declaration are Aransas, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria. The State will add additional counties as needs are identified.

On September 12, in response to severe weather threats along the Texas Gulf Coast due to Tropical Storm Nicholas, Governor Abbott ordered the Texas State Operations Center (SOC) to increase its readiness to Level II (Escalated Response) beginning September 13, at 9:00 a.m. central. The SOC will operate at Level II to coordinate the state's response in support of local officials. Tropical Storm Nicholas is forecast to begin impacting the Texas coast tomorrow.

Tropical Storm Nicholas is expected to bring significant rainfall and flooding to the entire Gulf Coast as it moves slowly across the state. The Governor urges Texans to prepare now, pay close attention to their local forecasts, and heed all warnings of local officials.

On September 11, the Governor activated resources to assist local communities impacted by this storm. The following resources have been activated:

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (Texas A&M Task Force One): Swift Water Rescue Boat squads and overhead packages.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: Game Warden Boat Teams.

- Texas Military Department: Ground Transportation Platoons with High Profile Vehicles and helicopters with hoist capability.
- Texas Department of State Health Services: Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Severe Weather Packages.
- Texas Department of Public Safety: Texas Highway Patrol (ESF 13) Search and Rescue Aircraft and The Tactical Marine Unit.
- Texas A&M Forest Service: Saw Crews and Incident Management Teams.
- Texas Department of Transportation: Monitoring Road Conditions and Prepositioned Water-Filled Barriers.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Health and Human Services
- Public Utility Commission: Power Outage Monitoring and Coordination with Utility Providers.
- Texas Division of Emergency Management State Shelter and Mass Care

Texans are urged to follow these flood preparedness and safety tips during severe weather events:

- Know types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information here: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Build an emergency supply kit. For more information on how to build a kit, visit: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.
- Be extremely cautious of any water on roads or in creeks, streams, storm drains, or other areas – never attempt to cross flowing streams or drive across flooded roadways and always observe road barricades placed for your protection. Remember, Turn Around Don't Drown.

For more flood safety tips, visit gov.texas.gov/hurricane.

Texans can also visit www.TexasFlood.org for resources and tips on how to stay safe during flood events.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)

DDC 14 – Lufkin (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler Counties)

Newton County: Newton County Submitted a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 15 – Beaumont (Includes: Hardin, Jefferson, Jasper and Orange Counties)

DDC Beaumont is to activate the DDEOC to a Level II- Escalated Response to begin on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

The Beaumont Enterprise will post updated information about school closures, available resources and other information pertinent to Tropical Storm Nicholas arrival.

Jasper County: Jasper County EOC is at Level III. Jasper County has submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Jefferson County: Jefferson County has submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Orange County: Sabine House, an assisted living facility is standing by to voluntarily evacuate and move 29 residents to a sister facility.

The cities of Port Arthur and Nederland, as well as Orange County, are making sand bags available for residents in advance of Tropical Storm Nicholas.

DDC 16A - Houston (Includes: Chambers and Harris Counties)

Harris County: Addicks and Barker Reservoirs in Harris County are currently empty. George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) EOC have been activated. Jersey Village has submitted a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 16B – Texas City (Includes: Brazoria and Galveston Counties) Galveston County issued a Disaster Declaration ahead of Tropical Storm Nicholas, on September 12.

Brazoria County: Cities of Angleton, Brazoria, Clute, Jones Creek and Lake Jackson have submitted Disaster Declarations.

Galveston County: Cities of Galveston and Santa Fe have submitted Disaster Declarations.

DDC 16C – Conroe (Includes: Liberty, Montgomery and Walker Counties)

Liberty County: Liberty County and the city of Devers have both submitted Disaster Declarations.

DDC 16D – Rosenberg (Includes: Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda and Wharton Counties)

Wharton County: City of Wharton has submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)

DDC 20 – Corpus Christi (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio Counties)

Disaster District 20 EOC is activated to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) (Virtual Response) at 1200 hours on 9/12/21 in response to Tropical Storm Nicholas in the Gulf of Mexico.

Aransas County: Submitted a Disaster Declaration

Kleberg County: The County of Kleberg will continue to distribute sandbags to residents through Monday and Tuesday.

Nueces County: Nueces County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Refugio County: Refugio County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

San Patricio County: San Patricio County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 21 – Weslaco (Includes: Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties)

Disaster District 21 Emergency Operations Center is activated to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) (Virtual Activation) at 1200 hours on 09/12/2021 to support Incident 21-0018 Tropical Weather. Local jurisdictions proactive measures beginning today, September 12, 2021 at 1200 Hours.

DDEOC-21 Weslaco is currently monitoring and maintaining situational awareness with local jurisdictions and the National Weather Service Brownsville on the Tropical Weather forecast impacting the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 17 – Victoria (Includes: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Lavaca, Jackson and Victoria Counties)

Disaster District 17 Emergency Operations Center is activated to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) (Virtual Activation) and will increase to Level I (Emergency Conditions) at 1300 hours on 09/13/2021.

Calhoun County: The cities of Point Comfort, Port Lavaca and Seadrift have submitted Disaster Declarations.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM): Due to the imminent threat to the state posed by Tropical Storm (TS) Nicholas, the Remote State Operations Center (SOC) will activate to Level II (Escalated Response) and will begin 24-hour response operations at 9:00 AM, Monday, 13 September 2021. Daily Operations staff are actively monitoring and reporting on the current situation preparing Snapshots and the State SITREPs. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the Remote SOC. Communications Coordination Group (CCG) has alerted our public, private, vendor and volunteer amateur radio partners. Amateur radio networks are being activated.

TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG): The Communications Coordination Group (CCG) is working with our public, private, vendor and volunteer partners to respond to possible communications outages caused by Tropical Storm Nicholas.

Mission Information and Details:

- Cellular carriers have identified and staged resources to deploy into the impacted areas if needed.
- DHS/FEMA has activated the SHARES HF net to support Texas and the Gulf Coast areas.
- CCG is working with FEMA to identify additional resources if required.
- CG is coordinating frequency management with Texas DPS SWIC.
- Amateur Radio Groups have been activated and are monitoring various HF nets. Local VHF repeater networks are being linked to provide additional communications links throughout the affected areas.

Texas A&M AgriLife: The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is standing ready with Disaster Assessment and Recovery Agent Strike Teams to support the Texas Division of Emergency Management, TAMU VET, the Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture and local jurisdictions in Southeast Texas to provide assistance with animal issues response and with damage assessments.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): The Texas A&M Forest Service has Incident Management Team personnel assigned to the DDEOC's in Houston, Texas City, Beaumont, Victoria, Corpus Christi, and Weslaco. TAMFS also has 3 personnel assigned to the Remote State Operations Center to support ESF 4 coordination.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ continues to monitor the situation and have staff on stand-by to respond to any drinking water/ wastewater and emergency response issues.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1): Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) deployed TX-TF1 personnel on September 13, 2021, at the request of TDEM for coastal flooding secondary to TS Nicholas. Texas Task Force 1 deployed (6) TX-TF1 Swiftwater Boat Squads and 2 Water Group Supervisors. Today, (3) additional Swiftwater Boat squads were deployed.

Additionally, 4 Helicopter teams with hoist capability are staged in Austin (2) and San Antonio (2).

The (9) boat squads (eighteen boats) and 2 Water Group Supervisors are standing by for TDEM SAR Missions request from local and county governments.

Overnight TX-TF1 responded to request for service in Matagorda. They rescued a man and his dog from a house that the roof had blown off and was surrounded by water. Shortly afterwards two adults were rescued from a trailer severely damaged by the storm.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): SOC Liaisons are rostered and responding for 24-hour staffing at the Remote SOC. Local TxDOT Districts have staff on standby to respond to any flooding issues today and overnight. The Houston TxDOT EOC met with local partners about response earlier today. The other costal TxDOT Districts are also in contact with local partners. TxDOT stands ready to respond and assist.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): DSHS has five Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Severe Weather Packages on Standby in EMTF Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 11.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): SOC Liaisons are rostered and responding for 24-hour staffing at the Remote SOC. Local TxDOT Districts have staff on standby to respond to any flooding issues today and overnight. The Houston TxDOT EOC met with local partners about response earlier today. The

other coastal TxDOT Districts are also in contact with local partners. TxDOT stands ready to respond and assist.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HSSC): HHSC continues to monitor situation for state-owned hospitals and state supported living centers and regulated health care facilities. TDEM has requested that HHSC activate its water and ice contracts.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD has activated 298 personnel in support of 21-0018 Tropical Weather Response. TMD has 9 ground transportation platoons (high profile vehicles) with three ground transportation Company HQ's. TMD has also an Air Operations Center with 5 Rotary Wing MRPs.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has rostered and prepared department resources consisting of Texas Game Wardens and State Parks Police Officers equipped with swift water boats, shallow water boats, and a rescue helicopter to support boat rescue operations in areas affected by flooding due to the Tropical Weather Event.

Public Utility Commission of Texas : The Public Utility Commission was activated to the SOC effective 0900 on Monday, 9/13/21. Currently there are 217,496 outages across 16 counties. Matagorda county has an outage rate of 96% while Wharton has an outage rate of 68%. The Houston area accounts for over 71,000 outages and Brazoria County has over 44,000 outages. Affected Utility companies are staged waiting for the weather to ease so assessment and corrective actions can begin. There is not any ETA for restoration at this time.

United States Coast Guard (USCG) The Coast Guard Captain of the Port in Corpus Christi set port condition X-Ray for the Port of Corpus Christi and all other terminals and facilities due to the expectation of sustained gale force winds generated by Tropical Storm Nicholas that may arrive within 48 hours.

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

American Red Cross (ARC)

Mass Care Sheltering

Based upon the current forecast Red Cross, partner, or independently managed shelters are focused on readiness as specified below.

Additional shelters are being placed on standby and their status will be communicated in future updates.

Mass Care Feeding

Red Cross will utilize local vendors, shelf stable meals, snacks and water in Red Cross-managed shelters. Post impact, Red Cross will work with feeding partners to support shelter operations.

Mass Care Distribution of Emergency Supplies (DES)

No requests for Red Cross DES at this time.

Mass Care Reunification

No requests for Red Cross service at this time.

AMERICAN RED CROSS CONGREGATE SHELTERS OPEN OR STANDBY								
Site Name	Status	Agency	Address	City, State	County	Zip	Evac Cap (COVID)	Post-Impact Cap (COVID)
Clawson Assembly of God	Standby	ARC	5569 Hwy 69 N	Pollok, TX	Angelina	75969	172	86
Nacogdoches Expo & Civic Center	Standby	ARC	3805 NW Stallings Dr	Nacogdoches, TX	Nacogdoches	75964	210	105
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Standby	ARC	2508 Appleby Sand Road	Nacogdoches, TX	Nacogdoches	75961	153	76
Orange Church of God, Embassy of Grace	Open	ARC	1911 N 16th St.	Orange, TX	Orange	77630	405	202
Orange County Expo	Standby	ARC	11475 FM 1442	Orange, TX	Orange	77630	389	194
Nehemiah Family Life	Standby	ARC	640 Pollard Street	Jasper, TX	Jasper	75951	50	200
First Baptist Church of Nederland	Open	ARC	1911 Nederland Ave	Nederland, TX	Jefferson	77627	271	135
Oaks Event Venue	Standby	ARC	2110 S Main St	Vidor, TX	Orange	77662	533	266
Kingwood First Baptist Church	Standby	Partner	3500 Woodland Hills Dr	Kingwood, TX	Harris	77339	TBD	TBD
Forge for Families	Open	ARC	3435 Dixie Drive	Houston, TX	Harris	77021	TBD	TBD
NACC Disaster Services Warehouse	Open	Partner	16605 Air Center Blvd	Houston , TX	Harris	77032	500	250
St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Community	Standby	ARC	10135 West Road	Houston , TX	Harris	77064	236	118

Falfurrias High School	Standby	Partner	100 Jersey St.	Falfurrias, TX	Brooks	78355	TBD	TBD
Corpus Christi Gym	Standby	ARC	3202 Cabaniss Pkwy	Corpus Christi, TX	Nueces	78415	TBD	TBD
Fulton Community Church	Open	ARC	215 N. 3rd St.	Fulton	Aransas	78358	TBD	TBD

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TAMFS	Regional Fire Coordinator	1		Assigned	DDEOC 20
TAMFS	Regional Fire Coordinator	1		Assigned	DDEOC 21
TAMFS	(3) Saw Crews	Varies per Request		Assigned	State Wide
TAMFS	(3) Incident Management Teams	Varies per Request		Assigned	State Wide
TPWD	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	Game Wardens	43	50	Activated	Corpus Christi
TPWD	Game Wardens	43	50	Activated	Houston/Galveston
TPWD	State Park Police	12	12	Activated	Lake Livingston
TPWD	Game Warden SAR	16	8	Activated	Houston/ Corpus Christi
TPWD	Swift Boats/ Airboats		30	Activated	Houston/ Corpus Christi
TPWD	Helicopter	2	1	Activated	Austin
TPWD	UAS	4	4	Activated	Houston/ Corpus Christi
TMD	Air Operations Center	50		Activated	Austin
TMD	AOC Command Trailer	7		Activated	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing MRP – Heavy	14	2	Activated	Dallas
TMD	Rotary Wing MRP - Medium	14	2	Activated	San Antonio
TMD	Rotary Wing MRP – Medium	14	2	Activated	Austin

TMD	Rotary Wing MRP - Mix	14	2	Activated	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing MRP - Mix	14	2	Activated	San Antonio
TMD	Task Force Storm HQ	10		Activated	Austin
TMD	Battalion Mission Command	34	14	Activated	Westminster
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon Headquarters	9	4	Activated	Beaumont
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon Headquarters	12	3	Activated	Victoria
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon Headquarters	9	4	Activated	Galveston
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	10	5	Activated	Beaumont
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	20	10	Activated	Beaumont
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	11	5	Activated	Galveston
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	22	6	Activated	Galveston
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	21	5	Assigned	Victoria
TX-TF1	ESF 9 SOC LO	2	0	Assigned	Austin
TX-TF1	Water Group Supervisor	4	0	Assigned	Beaumont
TX-TF1	6 Water Squads			Assigned	Liberty, Orange, Winnie, Galveston, and Beaumont
TX-TF1	Water Group Supervisor	4	0	Assigned	Victoria

TX-TF1	WS-San Antonio	6		Assigned	Bay City
TX-TF1	WS-Gainesville	6		Assigned	Dallas
DPS	SOC Liason	1	0	Activated	Austin
DPS	Helicopters	15	5	Activated	Austin, Dallas, Edinburg, Houston, San Antonio
DPS	Float Boats	12	4	Activated	Port Lavaca, Texas City
DPS	Float Boats	18	6	Assigned	South and Southeast Texas
DPS	Hoist Rescue Swimmers	6	0	Activated	Austin, San Antonio, Houston
DPS	Troopers	500	500 (Patrol Vehicles)	Assigned	South and Southeast Texas
TxDOT	HPV Team	10	5	Rostered	Bryan
TxDOT	HPV Team	10	5	Enroute	Houston
TxDOT	SOC liaison	3		Assigned	Austin
DSHS	Medical Incident Support Teams (MIST)	6	0	Assigned	Houston
DSHS	5x Severe Weather Packages	105	30	Activated	Houston

FINAL COMMENTS The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). TDEM continues to monitor the situation and will continue to provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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